

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
December 12, 2005

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Rep. Cotty, Mr. Daniel, Mr. Drew, Sen. Fair, Mr. Hall, Sen. Hayes, Mrs. Iacovelli, Mrs. Marlowe, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Stowe, Supt. Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, Mrs. Williams, Sen. Williams

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the October 10 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Special Presentation

Craig Melvin, News Anchor for WIS-TV in Columbia, introduced a series of new stories detailing a *school swap* by two students. A student from Richland Northeast High School and a student from Estill High School swapped places for four days. The news stories showcased differences in technology resources, community capacity, student diversity, and student motivation. Members asked a number of questions about the students' experiences and the impact of the stories. Mr. Melvin asked members questions about how they exercised their responsibilities and if they were surprised at the differences between the two schools.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Staton indicated that the approval of the revised science content standards was in the status of adjourned debate. Mr. Daniel moved and the EOC approved reopening the debate on the science content standards. Mr. Robinson moved approval of the standards as submitted by the State Department of Education. The motion was seconded. Senator Fair called members' attention to an email he had sent outlining concerns with four indicators under the high school biology course standard 5. He expressed continuing concerns with indicators B5.2, B5.4, B5.5 and B5.7 and asked the staff to convene a fair and balanced panel to review the indicators and report to the EOC in February. Superintendent Tenenbaum emphasized the details of the cyclical review process and the attempts the SDE had made to resolve the differences between Senator Fair's proposal and the standards as proposed.

Senator Fair requested that the motion to approve be amended to approve all of the content standards with the exception of the four indicators. The motion was seconded. Rep. Cotty moved to table the motion. The tabling motion failed to pass.

Senator Fair explained that he was seeking advice and would abide by that advice. Mr. Robinson indicated that the push for more analysis was a reasonable approach.

Mr. Drew called for the question. The motion to amend the main motion by approving the kindergarten through grade twelve science content standards with the exception of the four indicators within one high school biology standards (i.e., B5.2.

B5.4. B5.5 and B5.7) and seeking advice on those four indicators passed. The EOC then voted on the main motion. The motion passed.

Rep. Walker then moved that the four indicators be referred back to the Academic Standards Subcommittee; the motion was seconded and approved. Mr. Walker asked that the advisory meeting be held as soon as possible.

Supt. Tenenbaum stated that she did not vote because, as an ex officio member, she does not vote on the EOC matters.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms Subcommittee: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the Subcommittee.

1. Preliminary Report on the External Review Team Evaluation: Dr. Paula Szula Dominguez and Dr. Craig Nichols presented preliminary findings from the review of the external review. The report was very favorable, indicating that SC's process builds upon the strongest practices nationally. The full report is to be available in January 2006.
2. 2004-2005 Retraining Grant Assistance Program: Mr. Daniel drew members' attention to the report included in meeting materials. Within the report is documentation on the use of retraining grant funds by schools and the persistent challenges of teacher and administrator turnover.
3. Update on Funding Model: Mr. Daniel reviewed the 2003 funding model and outlined changes which had incorporated the physical education legislation, the Education and Economic Development Act, southeastern average salaries and a 28 percent fringe benefits factor.
4. FY2007 Budget Recommendations: Mr. Daniel presented the EIA & Improvement Mechanisms proposals for EIA and EAA funding. The proposals were adopted as presented.

C. Parental and Community Involvement: Mr. Hall indicated there was no report.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin indicated there was no report.

V. Special Policy and /or Legislative Issues

1. Update on Testing Task Force Recommendations: Dr. Anderson provided members with information and a copy of the draft legislation to implement the recommendations of the Testing task Force.
2. Update on Property Tax Initiatives: Dr. Anderson provided members with information on the two ad hoc committees examining property tax policies.
3. 2006 Legislative Session: A list of pending legislation was distributed to members.
4. Request for Endorsement of the EEDA: Mr. Staton outlined the request for endorsement. Members determined that they would like to have an update before the EOC acted to endorse a particular act.

VI. Election of a Chairman

Mr. Staton indicated that the nomination and/or selection process had been questioned and that he was appointing a nominating committee to be chaired by Mr. Martin with Senator Hayes, Rep. Walker and Mrs. Cooper serving.

VII. General Discussion

Mrs. Iacovelli stated that she voted against the budget recommendations because of her concerns that the educational system is failing to meet its purpose and that stricter accountability and more choices are necessary rather than continued investments.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.